THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) 24th Amendment to Telecommunications Tariff Order (TTO), 1999 issued by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) specifies pulse duration of 120 seconds for local calls in Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN). This pulse duration will also be applicable for Internet dial up connections. However, TRAI has also specified reduced dial up charges for offpeak hours to be provided to Internet Service Providers (ISPs). The tariffs announced by TRAI are in the form of a Standard Tariff Package and the operators are also permitted to offer Alternative Tariff Packages.

(b) The Dial up Internet charges consist of two components *i.e.* the PSTN component (charges for local calls) and the Internet usage charge. As per the existing rate during peak hours, the average cost per hour is PSTN component of Rs. 24/-plus Internet usage charge as applicable (which varies from Operator to Operator).

(c) As per the revised pulse duration announced by TRAI, the average cost per hour during peak hours will be PSTN component of the Internet dial-up access of Rs. 36/-plus Internet charge as applicable (which varies from Operator to Operator).

Refund of security money

930. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the norms for refund of security money in cases of surrendered telephones;

(b) whether refund is not made within a stipulated time;

(c) if so, whether a lot of applications are pending in Delhi;

(d) if so, how many cases are pending under the Idgah Telephone Exchange since 2002, till date;

(e) by when these pending applications would be cleared so as to enable the applicants to get their hard-earned money back; and

(f) what action Government propose to take against the personnel responsible for delay in payment of above said money in Idgah exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) As per norms, the refund of security money is to be made within a period of 60 days. About 16000 applications for refund of security deposit are pending in MTNL, Delhi as on date. Quite often, the refunds are not possible within the stipulated time limit due to various reasons including those relating to subscribers not being able to provide necessary documents.

(d) and (e) 241 cases are pending in Idgah Exchange area in respect of telephones surrendered during the period 1-1-2002 till date. These pending refund cases are likely to be cleared by 15th April, 2003.

(f) Instructions have been issued to MTNL, Delhi to settle the pending cases in the prescribed time frame of 60 days and official found responsible for delays may be punished suitably.

Export of software/hardware from Southern India

†931. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIVRANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Southern part of the country has registered highest export of computer software and electronic hardware during the years 2000-01 and 2001 -02;

(b) if so, the value of the exports made alongwith the details of the value of goods exported by Northern, Western and Eastern States during the said period;

(c) the number of industrial units of the above regions where from these exports were made; and

(d) the number of persons engaged in those units during the said period?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.